

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information reproducing apparatus including an expander for expanding compressed information recorded on a recording medium by one of a plurality of different compression methods, and outputs reproduced information based on the expanded information, said apparatus comprising:

a reading device for reading compressed information recorded on said recording medium;

a memory controller for writing the compressed information read by said reading device into a memory, reading the compressed information written in said memory in the order of writing and supplying the read information to said expander; and

a judging device for determining which of the plurality of compression methods is used in compressing the information read by said reading device,

wherein said memory controller controls the timing of starting to read the compressed information from said memory in accordance with a determination by the judging device.

2. An information reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said memory controller starts reading of the compressed information from said memory at a faster timing when said reading device has started to read the compressed information from said recording medium, when said judging device determines that the information is compressed at a compression rate higher than another compression rate.

3. An information reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein timing of starting to read is set so that a time required

to output the reproduced information for the compressed information stored in said memory from the start of reading the compressed information from said recording medium by the reading device till the start of reading the compressed information from said memory is substantially the same for the information compressed by any of the plurality of compression methods.

4. An information reproducing apparatus including an expander for expanding compressed information recorded on a recording medium by one of a plurality of different compression methods, and outputs reproduced information based on the expanded information, said apparatus comprising:

a reading device for reading compressed information recorded on said recording medium;

a memory controller for writing the compressed information read by said reading device in a memory, reading the compressed information written in said memory in the order of writing and supplying the compressed information to said expander;

a judging device for determining which of the plurality of compression methods is used in compressing the information read by said reading device; and

a reading controller for controlling a reading time of said reading device in accordance with a determination of the judging device.

5. An information reproducing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said reading controller controls the reading time of said reading device to be decreased when said judging device determines that the information is compressed at a compression

rate higher than another compression rate.